

## **Utah TBI Fund Advisory Committee**

### **Advocate**

#### ***Lucinda Wilmshurst***

Lucinda is a strong advocate for TBI. She most recently served as a Special Projects Coordinator with the National Emergency Medical Services for Children Data Analysis Resource Center at the University Of Utah and comes highly recommended by the Brain Injury Association of Utah.

#### ***Troy Roper***

Troy Roper sustained a TBI as a result of a serious motorcycle accident in Sept. 2005. After 2 years of rehabilitation Troy is currently; an advocate for the Center For The Blind and Visually Impaired, a member of CAT (the Committee on Accessible Transportation - UTA) and a member of the Legislative Coalition For People With Disabilities. Troy deals with several symptoms as a result of his TBI, cortical blindness being the most challenging. Troy is eager to contribute to those who have sustained a traumatic brain injury, even though his symptoms are challenging he has a wealth of personal experience and a tremendous amount of energy.

### **Family Member**

#### ***Nita Smith***

Nita is the Executive Director of Phoenix Services Corporation, a non-profit agency specializing in community re-entry services for people with brain injury and similar needs. She is also a parent of a brain injury survivor for more than 23 years.

She is certified by AACBIS (American Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists) as a Specialist and as a Trainer. Nita has participated in the development of TBI Foundation Training for state agencies, providers, and families. As such she has provided TBI Training to the following: DSPD staff, DSPD providers, Utah State Hospital staff, USOR rehabilitation counselors, Weber County Aging and Mental Health staff, Davis County and Washington County mental health providers, Valley Mental Health and Flexcare staff.

Nita was also a participant in the original design and revision of Utah's ABI Waiver for Medicaid funded services. She also serves as a member of Utah's TBI Grant Advisory Board.

Nita is a strong advocate for families and survivors of brain injury and has received the Brain Injury Association of Utah Outstanding Service Award.

#### ***Sarah Sanders***

Sarah is a Behavioral Specialist and has a family member who suffered a severe brain injury from a bicycle accident. She has worked as a Brokering Service Specialist with DSPD. She is very knowledgeable and has a passion for working with the disabled community.

#### ***Natalie Whatcott***

Natalie is a licensed social worker, and was a Community Service Broker for individuals on the waiting list for several years. Her current work is in counseling and as such she has great insight into social services and addressing people's needs. In 2007 however her work became even more personal as her youngest daughter sustained a TBI. Since then she has put considerable time and effort in to researching and learning all she can about this new realm.

### **Association Advocate**

### ***Ron S. Roskos***

Ron is in his fourteenth-year as the Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Utah (BIAU), and served on numerous Boards and Committees throughout his tenure at the association. He developed the Return to Work Program for individuals with brain injuries, and the Being HeadSmart School Program that have been successful in its use since their inception. The Return to Work Program has been duplicated in four states where the Brain Injury Association's exist. Prior to his employment at the BIAU, he was an Operation's Manager for a local transportation company for six-years that included coordinating services with the national company and supervising over twenty-employees.

### ***Adina Zahradnikova***

Adina oversees the TBI Program at the Disability Law Center and is a great advocate for people with brain injuries. She also serves on the TBI Grant Committee and is known for her fairness in her judgment as well as decisions.

### **Specialist**

#### ***Anne Russo***

Anne is a Neuro-Psychologist who took her internship under Dr. Erin Bigler, who is one of the leading brain injury specialists in the state of Utah and is known nationally and internationally for his work in Neuro-imaging. Anne works for Intermountain Healthcare as a clinical psychologist and specializes in brain injury care and services. She is known for being very dedicated and compassionate by those she serves. Anne is a member of the Board of Directors of Brain Injury Association of Utah (BIAU) and is on the BIAU Education & Awareness Committee.

#### ***Elaine Pollock***

Elaine has worked at Primary Children's Medical Center for many years. She has a tremendous knowledge of brain injuries and her background is an Educational Specialist. Elaine is an excellent communicator and has a great knowledge of the services needed in this state while being a very dedicated advocate for brain injury.

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